



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

WITNESS TO THE HOLOCAUST:
WWII VETERAN WILLIAM ALEXANDER
SCOTT III AT BUCHENWALD

Borrower's Information Packet

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GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a non-partisan state agency administratively attached to the Georgia Office of Secretary of State.

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust was established to educate the citizens of and visitors to Georgia about the consequences of hate, prejudice, and discrimination through the lessons of the Holocaust. These lessons will be taught in order to cultivate positive character development and to foster the understanding of the significance of good citizenship.

The Commission was established by Executive Order by Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1986. Governor Zell Miller re-established the Commission upon taking office and charged it with creating education programs for the citizens. Then in 1998, by act of the Georgia General Assembly, the Commission became a permanent State Agency.

For more educational resources and information about the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust please visit www.holocaust.georgia.gov.

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

Specifications

This exhibit was curated by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

The exhibit consists of 10 free-standing panels measuring 7' by 2'6" each that must be arranged in chronological order according to the number on the reverse side of each panel.

Content

The "Witness to the Holocaust" exhibit is a photographic essay about World War II veteran and civil rights activist William Alexander "W.A." Scott III. The exhibit also includes panels drawing parallel between the United States' Jim Crow Laws of the 1880's-1960's (later overruled by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965) and the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935-1945 implemented in Germany and Nazi-controlled areas of Europe.

Scott's father founded the first black-owned daily newspaper in the United States – *The Atlanta Daily World*. Scott grew up in Atlanta, attended Morehouse College, and later became the editor of the newspaper. He was also a tireless civil rights activist, WWII photojournalist and a witness to the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

In 1943 Scott was a Business and Math major at Morehouse College and engaged to his childhood sweetheart, Marian Willis, when he was called up for service in the United States Army. In March of 1943, shortly after his induction at Fort Benning, Georgia, Private Scott was assigned as a photographer with the 318th until June 1944. He left Tuskegee, Alabama, after some testing and was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Howard University (Washington, D.C.). Scott and five others out of a group of 310 men completed the nine-month basic engineering program in six months. From there, Scott was assigned to the 183rd Engineer Combat Battalion at Camp McCain (Grenada, Mississippi). Just before he was shipped overseas, Scott and Willis married in 1944.

During World War II the United States Army was, like much of the nation itself, segregated. "Things were supposed to be 'separate but equal' but they were not, of course. They were separate but they were not equal. So that was one of the challenges that many of the black soldiers had – they were fighting for rights that they could not enjoy," Scott's daughter, Alexis, explained at the exhibit launch on March 14th, 2013, at Sweetwater Middle School in Lawrenceville, Georgia. "But a lot of the black soldiers felt that because they were fighting for democracy, surely the United States would see that and recognize that; 'we are just as patriotic, just as American, and this will make a difference when we come back home.' And, as you know, it certainly did."

On April 11, 1945, Scott rode into Eisenach, Germany, on an Army convoy with the 8th Corps of General George S. Patton's 3rd Army. That afternoon they entered Buchenwald, one of the largest concentration

camps established by the Nazis within German borders. The African American soldiers liberating the camp could hardly overlook the irony of their own status in an army that considered them inferiors, even as they fought to defeat the Nazi army which carried the banner of racial supremacy. With his camera, Scott documented the atrocities for which the Nazis were responsible at Buchenwald. Many of these photographs were deemed to be official evidence and had to be turned over to the United States government. However, some of these photographs are included in the travelling exhibit.

After the war, Scott returned to Atlanta and completed his education at Morehouse. He then applied to Georgia Tech despite the fact that acceptance was impossible at the time due to the color of his skin. He submitted his application simply as an act of defiance – to challenge the system.

On July 16, 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued [Executive Order 9981](#) which abolished racial discrimination in the armed forces.

In 1948 Scott became circulation manager of the *Atlanta Daily World* and was very active in the Atlanta community. He served on the committee to celebrate the first official national holiday commemorating the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Scott was appointed by Georgia Governors Joe Frank Harris and Zell Miller to be a member of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. He was also appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Scott died in 1992 at the age of 69.

HOST REQUIREMENTS

Facility

The host facility must adhere to all of the following requirements:

- The exhibit must be displayed/stored in a dry location.
- The exhibit must be displayed in a facility in accordance with local fire ordinances.
- The exhibit cannot be exposed to direct sunlight.
- No smoking, food, chewing gum, or drinks are allowed in display area. The host must strictly prohibit such items.
- The exhibit must be displayed/stored in a secure, staff-supervised location during open hours.
- The exhibit must be displayed/stored in a secure, locked location during closed hours.

Fees

There is no rental fee at this time for this exhibit. However, hosts are required to cover the shipping costs or travel expenses for the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust staff member(s) for set-up and take-down of the exhibit unless other arrangements have been made.

As travel expenses will vary depending on location, distance, and availability the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is unable to provide an estimate until booking negotiations begin with the host.

No admission fee may be charged to the public to view the exhibit unless the host has an existing standard admission at the facility.

Audience

The host is required to track the number of visitors who view the exhibit during the display period. This number can be an approximate but should reflect the true audience scope. This number must be submitted in the Host Report after the exhibit's display duration. This report is online at <http://holocaust.georgia.gov/webform/host-report>.

Booking

To submit a booking request please visit <https://holocaust.georgia.gov/webform/witness-holocaust-booking-request>.

Booking requests must be submitted a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the requests display date.

All bookings will be arranged only by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust; no third party may request the exhibit from a Borrower to whom it is already on loan.

After a booking request is submitted and reviewed by Georgia Commission on the Holocaust staff, the Borrower may be asked to submit additional information such as but not limited to: floor plan of proposed exhibit display space, standard facility report, directory of host institution staff involved with exhibit display, and general information about host institution for press and promotional purposes.

BORROWING TERMS

Promotion

All promotional materials must be designed using templates provided by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust unless other arrangements are made.

All promotional materials must be approved by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust staff prior to public distribution.

All promotion must include the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust logo and website address.

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust will provide an event page on www.holocaust.georgia.gov which provide the location of and display duration for all exhibit hosts.

The Borrower is responsible for any printing fees for promotional materials and exhibit brochures.

For more information regarding exhibit promotion, please see page 8.

Set-Up

The exhibit panels must be set up by GCH staff member unless other arrangements have been made.

Set-up instructions are included in the panel boxes and are also available [online](#).

Borrowers are responsible for any damage that occurs during the transport, set-up, take-down, packing and/or display of the panels unless it is done by GCH staff.

Damages

If the panels or display frames are damaged in any way, the Borrower must immediately notify Emma Ellingson at ellingsonholocaustga@comcast.net or 770-206-1555.

Repairs will be coordinated by GCH. The Borrower will be invoiced for the cost of repairs.

Exhibit Layout

The exhibit consists of 10 panels that should be arranged in chronological order. Depending on display space, there are many options for arranging the panels. Georgia Commission on the Holocaust staff can assist in layout suggestions upon receiving a booking request.

Agreement Contract

Once a booking is confirmed, an “Agreement for Outgoing Loan of Personal Property” will be provided and must be signed by the Borrower. The exhibit cannot be loaned until the contract is signed and returned to GCH.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Marketing Templates

To download a flyer template, please [click here](#).

To download an exhibit brochure, please [click here](#).

Press Release

To download the press release template which can be personalized for each borrower and host please [click here](#).

Media Kit

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust's full media kit is available on request from Emma Ellingson at ellingsonholocaustga@comcast.net.